

11-24-1997

Columbia Chronicle (11/24/1997)

Columbia College Chicago

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The Chronicle

OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

Vol. XXXI, No.9

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November 24, 1997

Amtrak now requires ticket reservations

By Christopher Johnson
Correspondent

David Gibbons, a freshman film student from Morton, Ill., decided to visit his girlfriend in Champaign for the weekend. Like all the other times he has gone to see her, he planned on taking Amtrak.

Gibbons figured he would be able to get to the station, buy his ticket and get on the train that arrives in Champaign by 10:25 p.m. When he tried to buy his ticket half an hour before the train was scheduled to leave, he was denied a purchase without a reservation. The train he had planned on taking was the last one that day.

As of Oct. 26, trains running to all station destinations from Chicago are now reserved seating only. Instead of buying a ticket at the station or on the train, passengers must make a reservation for a seat weeks in advance and pay for the ticket at least one week prior to their scheduled departure.

Prospective Amtrak passengers should take this new change into consideration when planning a trip, so as not to get stuck in the same situation as Gibbons. "I had no idea [Amtrak policy] changed. I was forced to take a bus, which didn't get in until 5 a.m. the next morning," he said. "I had heard nothing about it until I tried to buy a ticket for the train."

Like Gibbons, many students that ride on Amtrak did not hear about the change in ticket sales policy. "I didn't know they required reservations, but I always purchased my tickets in advance over the over the phone anyway,"

said Simone Thiessen, a junior broadcast journalism student from Grand Rapids, Mich.

Passengers can make reservations and purchase tickets by calling 1-800-USA-RAIL, by visiting Amtrak's web page at www.amtrak.com or by calling a travel agent.

The new system can be beneficial to passengers, said Amtrak official. The reservation system ensures the trains are filled appropriately so that no passengers will be forced to stand in the aisle to over booking.

Buying a ticket in advance is also cheaper than it used to be. "More seats are available for a lower fare with the new system than the previous one," said Amtrak spokesman Marc Magliari.

But not all of the tickets to one destination have the same price. On a one-way trip from Chicago to Springfield, Ill., the first seats sell for \$17 at a savings of \$20 dollars over the old price; the next seats sell for \$23

at a savings of \$14; and the remaining seats sell for \$30 at a savings of \$7. If any seats are left after this process, they must purchased for the full price of \$37.

Amtrak also sells a student advantage card that offers a 15 percent discount on ticket sales. The card can be purchased for \$20 by calling 1-800-96-Amtrak. It can also be obtained free by ordering AT&T long distance service.



Blair Fredrick/Chronicle

The 'Year One Discovery' program, sponsored by the offices of Minority Affairs and Student Life and Development, organized a Thanksgiving dinner for the homeless Nov. 20 at Pacific Garden Mission at State and Balbo streets

See Photo Essays in the Special Section

Indecent exposure reported at Columbia, again

By Andrew J. Bradley
Staff Writer

The shattered glass that was still resting in the frame of the doorway of the 624 S. Michigan building Tuesday morning provided the reminder for those who encountered another incident of "indecent exposure" the night before.

The incident occurred Nov. 17, between 7 and 8 p.m., in the library. The offender was not a student at Columbia, according to the police report. Police are still investigating on the incident.

Campus security reported that a student notified a library staff of the incident. The staff immediately notified a campus security officer.

Upon questioning by the security officer, a fight erupted between the officer and the offender. The offender proceeded out of the building, shattering the glass of the doorway as he rushed outside. The fight continued outside of the building, as the offender swung a backpack at the security officer. The security officer was able to detain the offender until Chicago Police officers arrived and arrested the offender.

This incident marks the second report-



Brian Markiewicz/Chronicle

Following the security scuffle on Nov. 17, maintenance workers replace the shattered glass on the doorway in the 624 S. Michigan building

ed indecent exposure at Columbia this semester.

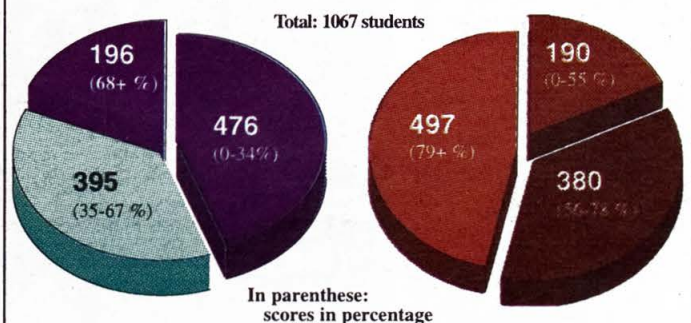
Security officials declined to comment on further details of the incident.

The previous incident occurred Oct. 1 in the 624 S. Michigan building.

Placement Test Results

Starting this academic year, a voluntary placement test in math, reading and writing was instituted to assess students' academic performance. Using the test results, college officials hoped students will be better advised at the registration process.

But *The Chronicle* reported last week that the effectiveness of the college's first attempt was questioned by a number of students whose test scores were not disclosed at their registration process. Most students who were determined to be in need of academic assistance failed to receive help as a result.



Of 1,067 Columbia students who took the test, 871 students, or 81.6 percent, were in need of developmental assistance in math; 571 students, or 53.5 percent, needed assistance in reading.

Source: Institutional Research

Editor's note: Due to the printing error, these graphics in Nov. 17 issue appeared without color. We regret the error.

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Special pullout

Check out our Thanksgiving section



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Everyday activities can count as exercise

By Margaret Ann Cross
College Press Service

You ride your bike to class, always take the stairs instead of waiting for an elevator and carry a heavy book bag wherever you go. Does any of this count as real exercise, the kind experts recommend?

New thinking in the fitness industry says it does.

Today's guidelines indicate that exercise of any kind adds up to better health, says Christine Bourgeois, membership and fitness director at the University of California at Berkeley. Experts used to emphasize that exercise had to be done in bouts of at least 20 minutes, three times per week.

"But fitness organizations have changed their perceptions and now say any exercise is better than nothing," Bourgeois says. "You should use your muscles as much as you can."

Yet, even though you're getting health benefits from moving your body in everyday life, you can—and should—do more.

Adding regular, sustained exercise to an already active lifestyle increases health benefits tremendously, Bourgeois says. "Exercise reduces stress, increases energy and strengthens the immune system."

Everyday workouts

The American College of Sports Medicine in Indianapolis, Ind., advises adults to get at least 30 accumulated minutes of exercise five to seven days a week.

The exercise can be done in short durations several times a day, as long as it adds up to at least a half hour of activity.

Things like walking to class and dancing at a club count toward that goal, says Anthony Wilcox, associate professor and

chairman of the Department of Exercise and Sport Science at the University of Oregon in Eugene, Ore.

Yet that level of physical activity is not going to produce high levels of fitness. It simply means that you are hitting the target for long-term health benefits. Studies show that amount of exercise positively affects risks for chronic diseases such as heart disease, diabetes and cancer, Wilcox says.

A more vigorous, planned workout schedule can bring additional and immediate results.

For example, lifting weights for an hour every day after classes helps David Amejka, a sophomore at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, look and feel better, he says. "It gets my blood going and takes my mind off of school for a while."

Even during busy times like finals week, Amejka fits exercise into his day by making sure he does it before he settles into studying for the night.

"Sometimes I'm tired, but I go and do it anyway. It gets rid of a lot of stress, and I end up feeling better. I have more energy and can study better after working out."

Real need

As active as college lifestyles seem, some things can put students at risk and increase their need to exercise.

College students' diets can be high in calories and fat. That means they have to do more than the minimum amount of exercise to gain balance and stay out of a weight-gaining situation, the University of Oregon's Wilcox says.

And huge amounts of time spent in class, studying or in front of a computer means students are

sitting a lot and need more than just the "maintenance" level of exercise to stay physically fit.

Exercise has psychological benefits as well. Overly stressful times such as finals are when students can benefit the most from exercise, Bourgeois says.

"It takes you out of the study situation and gives you a break. It's a healthy release of the tension."

While college life can mean students need to exercise more, it also gives them plenty of opportunities to fit workouts into their routines. Most schools have recreational facilities close to classrooms or dorms.

They often feature workout equipment and classes. Internural sports are popular, too.

Taking elective activity courses such as tennis or ballroom dancing also is a good way to learn new exercise skills and have fun, Wilcox says.

"Exercise can be a significant part of students' college experience if they want it to be," he says. "The college environment offers students convenient opportunities to be active. These are opportunities that are less accessible once people are off campus, where exercise requires more travel or higher fees and things like that."

Scheduling it in

About half of the 30,000 students at the University of California at Berkeley exercise and use the sports facilities on campus.

About a year ago, senior Linda Castellanos realized she was beginning to enjoy working out. She looked forward to it. So she decided to commit to doing aerobics for an hour, five days a week. "It's a stress-release

process for me, and I wanted to build up my stamina," she says. "Now I can't imagine not doing it. For me, it's a need."

Castellanos also fits in weight training when she has time and takes modern dance classes through the university. She's been able to keep up with the exercise plan because everything is easy to get to, she says. "Colleges foster an exercise-friendly environment."

Like Castellanos, all students should set up an exercise routine that they can follow through on, says Berkeley's Bourgeois. "One of the biggest factors in keeping it going over time is convenience."

Bourgeois offers these tips for fitting exercise into a busy life:

*Schedule exercise. Plan for exercise as you do a class. Decide what time of day you are going to do it, and stick with it. Don't say, "If I finish all of this reading, I'll go work out."

*Work out in realistic doses. *Pick something you enjoy. Any physical activity counts, so you might as do something you like. That way, you're more likely to continue.

*Increase the intensity or duration of activities. For example, the weight of a backpack worn in the center of your back increases the intensity—and therefore the benefits—of walking to class.

*Vary workouts. Throw something different into the mix to challenge your body.

And always keep in mind that things like riding your bike to class or taking the stairs are great, too, Bourgeois says. "It means fitness is a part of your life, and that's just what it should be."

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Time to Surf!

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Before paying tuition bills with a credit card, be sure to think about it, experts advise

By Lisa Bertagnoli
College Press Service

When Alan Restivo's daughter started her junior year at American University in Washington, D.C., Restivo found a new friend in his wallet—his GM credit card. He began putting his daughter's tuition bills on the cards, racking up the points and paying off the monthly bills as they came in. The result? His daughter got a diploma and he got a new Oldsmobile.

American University is one of 1,200 or so institutions of higher learning that accept credit-card payment for tuition. So is Johnson & Wales in Providence, R.I., where Restivo happens to be director of financial services. All told, students and parents charge about \$7.5 billion worth of tuition a year on Visa and Mastercard. Similar stats for American Express and Discover aren't available.

Financial experts tick off good reasons to—and better reasons not to—put your tuition on a credit card. "It's the most expensive consumer credit there is," says Catherine Williams, president of the nonprofit Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Greater Chicago. A typical Stafford loan, she says, carries an interest rate of about 8.25 percent as well as an abundance of perks, such as deferments.

The typical credit card, though, carries an annual interest rate of 18 percent to 21 percent, which compounds monthly. And despite their best intentions, most credit-card users carry a monthly balance. Visa says 40 percent of its customers don't pay off monthly balances. That figure is about 60 percent at MasterCard.

Williams recommends putting tuition on a card only as a last resort. "If you're just about to graduate and you've already hocked Grandma's jewelry, then go ahead," she



Spending was never so easy! Credit cards makes spending money simple, but watch-out for the dangers involved.

Photo illustration by Dan Bischoff/Chronicle

says. Credit-card tuition might also work if you know you're coming into a large sum of money within a few months after putting tuition on your card.

If you can swing it, the best payment method of all is cash, says Tess Van Duvall, assistant director of debt management at Emory University in Atlanta. Overall, Van

\$17 million a year in financial aid, Restivo says.

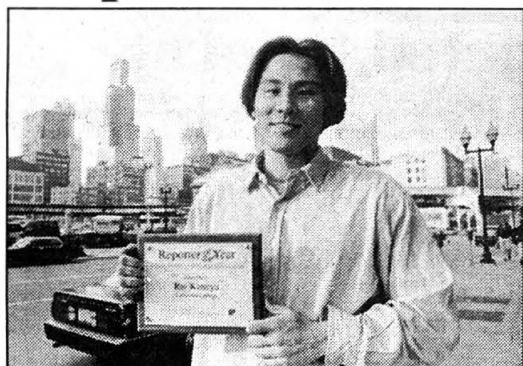
At the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, where about 75 percent of students pay tuition with a credit card, cashier Nicki Nickell offers simpler advice. "Just pay your bills on time," she says.

Duvall advises students to assume as little debt as they can during their college years. "A loan is still a loan," she says, whether it's from the government, a bank or a credit-card company.

The only exception to this rule, she says, might be students who would otherwise pull their tuition money out of a high-interest mutual fund. But those students shouldn't attend Emory: The school doesn't take American Express—or any other credit card.

At Johnson & Wales, the 35 percent of students who do charge their tuition seem to have hit on a happy medium, Restivo says. They simply charge the thousand dollars or so not covered by financial aid or other loans. "Very seldom is it full tuition," he says. Tuition and room and board run about \$20,000 a year at the culinary school, which gives out about

Chronicle news editor wins 'Reporter of the Year' award



Blair Fredrick/Chronicle

Columbia Chronicle's News Editor Rui Kaneya earned first place in the national "Reporter of the Year" competition, sponsored by The Associated Collegiate Press and Tribune Media Services.

The award was presented at 1997 National College Media Convention held Nov. 1 in Chicago.

The winners of the competition were determined based on three news articles they authored in 1997.

Student leader salary survey shows most are paid — well

By Lisa Bertagnoli
College Press Service

For Jonathan Brill, heading up student government at the University of Miami, Coral Gables, Fla., isn't just a job. It's \$19,140 a year.

Although he's probably the highest-paid student-government official in the nation, Brill isn't alone in picking up a monthly paycheck, tuition credit or class credit in return for work as a campus politician. Seventy percent of American colleges and universities offer elected student officials some form of compensation, according to a fall survey conducted by Student Leader magazine, based in Gainesville, Fla.

The magazine sent questionnaires to 900 U.S. institutions of higher learning. One hundred and fifty schools returned surveys, 72 of which came from public schools; 52, private; and 26, community schools. Overall, 88 percent of the state schools offer compensation, while 48 percent of the private schools do. (The complete results are on-line at www.studentleader.com).

The magazine decided to do a survey after publication of a short roundup of student-official salaries in its June 1997 issue caused a wave of national stories, including one in U.S. News and World Report. "We were surprised at the sheer number of schools that do compensate student leaders," says Butch Oxendine, publisher of Student Leader. "I think the percentage would hold up" if all 4,000 U.S. universities and colleges responded, he adds. Oxendine, now 34, has been both a paid and unpaid student leader. At Lake City (Fla.) Community College, he received full-tuition credit; at the University of Florida, Gainesville, he received zip. Oxendine says he's in favor of compensating student-government leaders. "They shouldn't be viewed differently than athletes or scholars" who

often receive tuition, he says. Pay, he adds, also enables students from a variety of economic backgrounds to participate in student government. "If you don't pay, you leave it open only to rich kids who can afford to donate 60 hours of time a week," he says. He also favors tuition credits over paychecks. "That way you're sure it goes toward your education," he adds, and not pizza and beer.

Allison Miller, student government president and a political science major at the University of Iowa, says her \$600-a-month paycheck works out to "way, way under minimum wage." The job keeps her so busy that she had to quit a higher-paying job as a telemarketer in order to keep her sanity. "People e-mail you, they stop by, they call you—you wouldn't believe it," says the junior, who plans a career in non-profit management.

Despite the craziness, Miller says she's not in it for the money. "I would be suspicious of anyone who takes this job for the money," she says. "I don't think they would have the students' best interests at heart."

Other schools pay student leaders not with a monthly paycheck, but with tuition credits. Brill, for instance, never sees his "salary"—it's applied to his tuition bill at University of Miami, which is a private school. "Tuition credits are much better," he says. "If you start paying cash, you open the door to all sorts of improprieties."

Brill, a senior majoring in international finance and marketing, says he would have run for the 40-hour-a-week job even if it didn't pay. "It's been tremendously beneficial," he says of the experience. "I've met some amazing leaders who have served as mentors." What's more, he says the pay helps him do a better job.

"If I didn't get paid, I'd have to get another job, and I wouldn't have the time to commit to this one," he comments.

Writers!

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Robert Stevenson

No 'good' stories? Take a closer look

"When is The Chronicle going to run a positive story?"

That's the question I have been asked several times... by various administrators and staff members. I guess it's supposed to be some sort of jibe at us, because we cover NEWS around campus. And the fact is, not all news is good news here.

Another thing is, we aren't the public relations publication of the school. We are, however, the student run publication which was set up to inform the public, students, faculty and administration about what has been seen and what is going on here at Columbia.

News, as it's defined in The American Heritage Desk Dictionary, is "recent events and happenings, esp. those that are unusual or notable."

I've read that many, many times, and no where do I see any good versus bad, where news has to be good. I guess they, the people who have asked me about running good news, don't really read The Chronicle closely.

In the first issue of this semester our top story on the front page was about all the expansion and rehab that was done during the summer... a "good" story.

In the second issue, our News Editor, Rui Kaneya did a story on the elevator problem and won a first place award for it at a national event. He won in a competition that pitted the lowly Chronicle against papers from top notch schools. The article said the school was moving to improve elevator service and that the city was lagging in scheduling inspections of the cars. Another "good" story in the sense that the school isn't at fault.

Sixth issue, the top story was on Zafra Lerman, a "good" story. On the second page was a story on Student Organization Day, another "good" story.

Issue 7, we ran an update on P-fac and their struggle to attain union status. This was a "good" story because the organization is trying to bring about a positive change for part-timers. On the third page there were two stories about students winning scholarships. These were again, "good" stories because they cast a positive light not only on these people but on the school for producing such capable students.

In last week's issue, we had several "good" stories. Bob Costas was keynote speaker at the Al Weisman fund raiser, we covered it. The English Department had a party to celebrate the release of "South Loop Review," yet another "good" story.

The Chronicle has always tried to cover all it could that is "good" on campus, but it is not always possible for us to be there. We aren't paid full-time to be here, and classes do sometimes conflict with planned events. I know there are plenty of things that I would have liked to cover in my two years of being involved with the newspaper, but it is not possible to be in two places at once. If it was I'd have one of me working to 11 p.m. every Friday and the other one out getting shit-faced with my friends all at the same time!

Every week in the Feature pages of The Chronicle, you'll find "good" news features about events around campus and movie reviews to boot. Plenty of stuff that is "good."

The new Sports page also has a lot of good news. Well, that's because Columbia doesn't have any sports, so I guess the school wins there.

Even with all of this "good" news, I get comments about us not doing enough good stories. One thing that also struck me is that if we do such a bad job, why doesn't anyone from the administration write us a letter to complain about it. We would publish it. I guess no one cares enough to express themselves in a manner that would be effective.

You probably think that I'm just trying to pump ourselves up, anyone who knows me knows that I wouldn't do that. I'm just as critical about what we publish as is everyone on staff here. Maybe no one knows how much work goes into this rag...

Editorials are the opinions of the Chronicle's editorial board. Columns are the opinions of the authors. Views expressed in the opinion pages aren't necessarily the opinions of The Chronicle, Columbia's journalism department or Columbia College.

The Chronicle welcomes letters to the editor. Wednesday is the deadline for submissions. Please include full name, year and major. Letters can be faxed to 312/427-3920, e-mailed to Chron96@interaccess.com, mailed to 623 S. Wabash Ave., Suite 205, Chicago, IL 60605 or posted on the Chronicle's interactive forum located at <http://www.5.interaccess.com/chronicle>

Editorial cartoon of the week



Letters to the editor

Federal Pell Grant Eligibility Expanded

During the week of November 10, 1997, President Clinton signed into law a spending bill for fiscal 1998. This law recognizes that parents, dependent students and independent students need relief in terms of grant aid available to help finance a college education.

The legislation adds about \$400 million to the Federal Pell Grant Program, expanding eligibility for independent students who work. The income cap for dependent students is raised to \$2,200 up from \$1,750. The American Council on Education has estimated that approximately 150,000 additional students will be eligible for a Federal Pell Grant due to this change in income caps.

This adjustment reduces the effect of steps taken in 1992 by the Congress to limit the eligibility for a Federal Pell Grant for those dependent

and independent students who work, by either eliminating their awards or reducing their eligibility. Although approximately one million students had their Federal Pell Grants reduced or became ineligible due to the 1992 actions of the Congress, President Clinton has taken a step in the right direction by increasing student earning caps, and making the Federal Pell Grant available to more students.

The expansion of Federal Pell Grant eligibility may indicate a federal reaffirmation that investing in students is an investment in the future, and that reducing student reliance on educational loans is good fiscal and public policy. Student and parents should be encouraged to contact their U.S. Representatives and U.S. Senators to support financial aid program funding.

John Olino
Director Financial Aid

Robert Stevenson's number one fan

I must say I am very impressed with Robert Stevenson's column, and enjoy reading it every week...he informs me of what is happening at Columbia and anywhere else. He's got a great sense of humor...Hats off to you Robert!

An Avid Chronicle Reader
Via the Chronicle interactive forum

Kudos to the Chronicle for new section on Dec. 1

Thank you for your note regarding the literary supplement. We are always happy to hear of publishing opportunities for our students, and I congratulate you and the rest of the staff for making a solid attempt to showcase creative work by Columbia students.

Randall Albers
Chair, Fiction Writing Department

Invasion of the Cueballs

By Wilfred Brandt
Correspondent

You must still remember the jokes. Back then, it all seemed so laughable. You said to yourself, "ohhh, it could never happen here. Not in a wholesome town like this one. Not to God fearing people like us." You were wrong.

At the turn of the decade, in the pre-grunge era, there was an artist formerly thought of as talented. Sinead O'Connor was her name. As soon as that shiny dome o' hers popped up on the music scene, comedians and their ilk came rushing in, giggling like a bevy of school girls hopped up on No-Doz. The cue ball, "Nothing Compares 2 Hair," O'Shine-head" O'Connor. Not until that whole deal with Mr. Simpson (I refuse to write his name), would funny-men worldwide have such ample fodder for their piss cannons. Only seven odd years ago, it seemed funny. Only then could we feel safe. Wake up America. The cueballs are here and they're taking over.

When Billy Corgan of the Smashing Pumpkins sheered off his golden locks a couple years ago, it was a different story. The nation collectively watched, chuckled, then held the tips of their chins and said, "that might look nice with a fake leather jacket." It seems the "baby's-bottom-on-top-of-my-head" look is big with men in the nineties. Perhaps that's just it. Maybe if the Pope's pop music nemesis had been named Sam O'Connor and had a belly full of pork products instead of feminist angst, perhaps the catcalls would have been none. But whatever the reason, what once was dumb, now is cool.

This new trend does pose a few benefits for the world at large: electric clipper sales up 24.9 percent; more reflective surfaces in which to check my hair and make up; being able to play a full set of flesh bongos down at the coffee house. Not to mention what it's done for the hair-loss community at large. It's so refreshing that balding men no longer need to

hide themselves under bridges and resort to scaring little children for kicks. With just a little shaving cream they can cue up with the fashionably elite and shine in the lime-light a little too.

But I digress.

The small minority that can benefit from this new trend is far outweighed by the majority of us that are being forced to live through it. You thought acid-washed denim was bad? Kojak, Michael Jordan and Professor Xavier all had their niche, but now everybody and their brother wants a piece of the action. I wonder if the ozone depletion has anything to do with this new trend? Ultra violet rays resulting in hair loss? We could only be so lucky. No, I'm afraid citizens are actually cueing up to say goodbye to their mullets and ponytails. More startling is the recent development in hair growth around chrome domed men's mouths. Fearing that women may think them incapable of producing grass from their follicles, many men are asserting their hairyness by cultivating little circles around their lips. You've seen them before. Most likely a dear friend of yours has been afflicted. You kept your comments to yourself, but before long the little hairy oval started commanding his brain: buy a fake leather jacket, smoke a cigar, listen to the Trainspotting soundtrack, watch Friends. Frightening as this may seem, in conjunction with a shaven cranium the condition is nearly incurable. The victim becomes an entirely new entity, often falling under the spell of such scourges as vegetarianism, Buddhism, and in extreme cases, performance art.

The scariest thing about this newest development in our cultural evolution is that there is no end in sight. In a recent poll, 15 percent of high school boys had tried shaving their heads, and a reported 9 percent even do it on a regular basis. Perhaps a razor blade shortage is in our near future? Or maybe toxic spills of Nair could do the trick. I wish I could offer you, my dear readers, some comforting words in these trying times, but I cannot.



Disaster strikes when Chronicle columnist/Tyrannosaurus Sex Sam Walters sets an industrial oven on fire while working improbably as a machinist at a flute company. Will our hulking ideal of masculinity face death bravely, never crying out as he receives horrible blistering burns over the bulk of his body? Or will he shriek incessantly like a little girl as the flames advance steadily on the corner of the room where he's curled up in the foetal position? Tune in, tune out, dumb down for the exciting, anti-climactic conclusion to...

**(ONE OF) THE DAY(S) I ALMOST
KILLED EVERYBODY PART-3**

"The oven's going to explode," I thought frantically, "who can I blame?" Indeed, the oven was on fire. Or rather it was shooting fire—great horizontal columns of flame rushing violently out of both ends of the oven. Because the room was fairly narrow, and the oven was placed squarely in the middle of it, this blazing spectacle effectively formed a sort of fiery turnstile through which I first needed to pass before running far, far away and pinning the whole mushrooming catastrophe on someone else. I could either vault this super-heated hurdle, possibly singeing my knick-knacks off, or risk turning my nose into a candle limboing underneath it. I opted instead to run around in circles crying hysterically and screaming, **"WE'RE ALL GONNA DIIIIIIIIEEEEEEEEEE!!!"** while pulling my hair out in great clumps. But the oven only raged hotter. Realizing this was one smoking snafu I wasn't going to be able to sweep under the asbestos rug, I accepted that I'd have to try and shut the oven down.

I ran back to my desk and pulled a fire extinguisher and oxygen bag from inside one of the drawers. An oxygen bag is a transparent plastic sack with an elastic band around the opening that is placed over the head and then inflated via an external oxygen tank. It is a poor man or cheap company's alternative to a proper gas-mask. As I was putting mine on, I was struck by a worrisome thought. Oxygen is incredibly flammable. I was about to snap a bulging balloon-full of the stuff over my head. If a flying

piece of glowing shrapnel were to pierce the flimsy material of my gas-bag, I would instantly be transformed into a walking torch. But I reasoned that the oven would have had to already have exploded for that to happen, in which case I would be on fire anyway and it wouldn't matter that my head was burning any brighter than the rest of my incandescent cadaver.

I approached the oven with great cowardice, clutching the pathetic little fire-extinguisher tightly in my sweaty hands. I could see the oven's flames reflected in the plastic of the gas-bag—an unfortunate reminder of the weird fact that I was trying to diffuse one bomb while wearing another strapped to my head. The flames jetting out of the oven were a brilliant, phosphorescent white now. Through the blinding glare I could just make out the oven's spread of gauges and meters. All the needles spun crazily around or were pushed far, far to the right, standing trembling well inside the red-zone. I hadn't been entirely certain that the oven would explode up until that moment, but watching it grow exponentially hotter by the second, I realized it would have to erupt, or melt at any rate, in which case molten lava would come rolling across the floor and probably scald my feet off. Mama stumped and I—she with no hands remember—would make a nice pair.

I have to close the fuel line from the ammonia tank, I thought. I set this whole debacle in motion by opening the fuel line, I should be able to stop it by closing it, I reasoned. I hoped. I prayed. Yeah, I prayed. Savor the irony. I found the valve interrupting the line between the oven and the ammonia tank and twisted it shut hard. Nothing. The oven continued to spray threatening torrents of fire out of its ends. I half expected this. After all, I theorized, what else could account for the oven's unexpected volcanic behavior today, but a faulty valve that allowed unlimited quantities of ammonia to flow in? I felt a sense of relief. I thought I could see light at the end of the tunnel. All I had to do was close off the ammonia tank itself—accomplished by tightening down a lug-nut on its top—thus depriving the oven of any more fuel and resultantly extinguishing it. But first I needed my wrench. And my wrench had been placed—by **SOME** genius—cozily alongside the oven where it was happily heating up. It wasn't easy finding a rag that hadn't been set alight in that room and I cursed up and down as I tore through drawers and closets in search of one. By the time I found a rag, my wrench was visibly smoking. I doubled the cloth up and grabbed the wrench quickly. I clamped it around the nut on the ammonia tank and began turning recklessly. I could feel the wrench smoldering its way hungrily through the cloth toward my hand. But with a final, great twist I was done and threw the wrench clattering to the ground. I

jumped back to gauge the efficacy of my crisis management and... **BA-BOOM!!** the oven rewarded my efforts by erupting with renewed vigor. **"JUDAS PRIEST!!! I'm DEAD!!!"** I picked up my wrench again and flew at the oven in a last-ditch effort to

save my life. I tightened the nut on the top of the ammonia tank, I tightened the bolts on the outside of the oven, I tightened every damn screw, nut, and bolt in the non-flaming vicinity of the oven, but no change. This was incredible--no, this was supernatural! The oven was a car with no gas in its tank, inexplicably racing up a mountain to shoot spectacularly off the top. The only parallel I could think of was that Quiet Riot video from the mid-eighties—"Metal Health," I believe—where that archetypal, zit-faced teenager's stereo grew out of control as a result of playing the band's tape. That poor kid did everything he could to stunt his stereo. He pushed the power button, he unplugged it, he even smashed it with a bat, but the stereo just kept getting bigger and bigger! Quiet Riot was too metal for his stereo to handle; conversely I was too stupid to handle my oven.

How I had laughed at that unfortunate teen's plight. Now God was punishing me for my insensitivity. **"YOU THINK THAT'S FUNNY? YOU THINK IT'S FUNNY WHEN SOMEBODY'S STEREO MUTATES LIKE THAT? WELL, LET'S SEE HOW YOU LIKE A LITTLE 'METAL HEALTH' TREATMENT OF YOUR OWN!"**

The jig was up; the factory was done for. With the oven roaring uncontrollably behind me, I walked to the opposite wall and pulled the fire alarm. It started bleating immediately. Hopefully my co-workers would evacuate the building, but I was trapped in the oven room. I contemplated taking cover behind my desk in the extreme off-chance I might survive the oven's explosion, but decided against it. Who'd want to live with the stigma of being the incredible moron who single-handedly destroyed a multimillion dollar company in one Hiroshima like swoop of his potentially incompetent hand? No, instant incineration would be far preferable I thought, as I inflated my gas-bag to its fullest and approached the oven a final time to detonate my head in the fire.

And then, just as I was pushing the top of my gas-bag helmet into the flames, the oven blew one epic soot fart, and went out. My co-workers raced into the room. Being friends of mine, they were idiots of the same caliber and on hearing the fire-alarm had come running instead of exiting the building. I was completely covered in dirty, black crap. I'd also unconsciously wet my pants, which I later tried to pass off as an attempt to render myself fire-retardant.

There has never been an official explanation for how I caused the oven to malfunction so drastically—what slip of the finger or half-baked adjustment to the oven's workings I could have made to bring on such a near calamity. It was, in my opinion, an act of God. But I cook in microwaves exclusively now.

STUFF FROM STAFF

By Amy Pugh

Make the 'Smoke Out' last more than one day

Thursday, Nov. 20, was the American Cancer Society's 21st annual "Great American Smoke Out." Last year, an estimated 11,960,000 people across our great nation put down their cancer sticks for a whole 24 hours. Yahoo! I'm curious as to how many of them were Columbia College students. Judging from the vast collection of cigarette butts piled up at the El and bus stops, the smoke screens—oops, I mean windows—in the Harrison Snack Shop, and the droves of students gathered for a quick smoke outside the Wabash building, it's probably safe to say not very many.

It is rather discouraging to witness so many young people view their health—and the health of the non-smokers around them—with little or no regard. Let's be honest, smoking is disgusting. It is a stinky, expensive, and fatal habit.

I find it humorous that the very same students screaming they are poverty-stricken can scrounge up \$2.50 a day for a pack of cigarettes. (That's \$840 a year.) I also find it shameful—and borderline pathetic—to watch a 20 year-old get winded from climbing up the steps outside the Harrison subway. Is it even necessary to touch on the "fatal" aspect of this lovely vice? I think we'd be hard pressed to find someone who could pick up a pack of cigarettes, read the warning label and exclaim, "NO WAY! Smoking is BAD for me? I had NO idea!" (Please note the "warning label." Drano has a warning label. So does Raid, Clorox, and Lysol. All of them are poisonous).

Before all of you angst-ridden smokers come and knock me off my soapbox, let

me clarify one thing. I used to smoke. A lot. I began my career as a professional smoker when I was 15. When most of you college freshmen and sophomores were in the 3rd and 4th grade, I was skipping my 1st hour class in my acid-wash jeans, listening to Ozzy Osbourne and smoking two packs of Marlboros every day. There was no rest for the wicked. Because of my love affair with nicotine, I am not anti-smoker. I am anti-smoking, but it goes deeper than that. I am anti-tobacco industry.

These people are evil. I am perfectly aware that nobody ever came into my home, tied me down, and shoved lit cigarettes in my mouth—forcing me to smoke. I realize now, when this industry constantly denied nicotine was addictive, I was given the impression, albeit false, that quitting smoking would be easy. (No, nicotine isn't addictive! Neither is heroin. Needles and Marlboros for everyone!) After all, I had complete control over my smoking. I could quit anytime I wanted. Besides, it was cool. All my friends smoked.

It's been 392 days since my personal "Great American Smoke Out." I still crave them every day. That's why it depresses me to see younger, supposedly smarter generations pick up where I left off. Please realize that you are being played. The future of these companies depends on you. Statistically speaking, the younger a person begins smoking, the less likely they are to successfully quit.

Although I relish being able to run up stairs (hell, run anywhere) without being short of breath, dry off after a shower with a towel that smells like fabric softener and wake up in the morning sans my usual 3-5 minute coughing jag (that a roommate once compared to a seal), quitting is still a challenge. It's been over a year, but each cup of coffee, every beer and every time I finish a meal without lighting up is another milestone. Sadly, if I were to purchase a Tribune tomorrow and read that it was all a big mistake—that smoking didn't kill you—I'd start again. Until then, I'll never quit quitting. Hopefully, some of you younger smokers will follow suit.

Family Dysfunction During The Thanksgiving Holiday

By Michele E. Buttelman
Daily Sundial
California State University

Ahhh yes! It's that time of year again. That wonderful time of year when the happy, well-adjusted family gathers together to give thanks for all the blessings of the previous year. When family members unite in the bosom of their loving, supportive, nurturing family unit. When families spend long hours reveling in each other's company and mourning the hours spent apart.

Right. If you believe that, then I assume you still believe in the tooth fairy. I moved 1,200 miles to get away from my family, people who made the Manson family look like Ozzie and Harriet. My nickname as a child was "Mickey." My family always called me, "Lucky Mickey." Yes, I really want to spend the holidays with THOSE people.

Time and distance often put a rosy hue on our memories. Every once in a while I get nostalgic for something that never existed and I make the trek home, hoping for a beautiful Kodak moment. Instead it becomes a passive-aggressive festival of terror.

"Your daughter doesn't seem to be anything like you, she is always happy and smiling. You were always such a sour child," says my uncle.

"Remember the time when you thought you would try out for the Miss Othello pageant, but the school voted on who could participate and they only let 12 of 14 girls run and you were one of the two they didn't vote in?" my cousin gleefully reminds me.

So it goes for the entire family reunion. I remember being around 7 or 8 years old and my own grandmother calling me "that little hellion."

Every failure, weakness and insecurity is dutifully recounted.

Not that the rest of the family remains unscathed. My cousin Billy is an alcoholic who blames his mother for every-

thing that goes wrong in his life. My sister Linda, otherwise known as the "welfare queen," has a penchant for marrying wife beaters, (one of her ex-husbands is still serving time for trying to burn the house down with her in it). She blames the entire family for every misfortune she encounters.

I could go on at length, but you get the picture.

Every family gathering is an orgy of put-downs, sarcasm and the exposure of old wounds. Think I'd just rather spend some quality time with the Son of Sam.

My husband's family, while less cruel, is not much better. EVERY holiday turns into a screamfest with someone shouting at someone else, tears, hurt feelings and people storming out of the house, sometimes before the meal is even served. They usually aren't missing much. I have yet to have a turkey at my mother-in-law's that wasn't dry and didn't taste like cardboard.

This year is going to be different. My father-in-law (who divorced my mother-in-law 15 years ago after years of philandering, then married a woman half his age, then divorced her) is now involved with an old flame and lives in Seattle. He has decided to spend Thanksgiving there. Not surprising since that's the only thing we've heard from him in six months.

My husband's brother and his wife are separated. Being the close family we are, it took us three months to find out their marriage was kaput, even though they live right here in Northridge, CA. They have decided not to have a family Thanksgiving with the rest of us because ... "it might be uncomfortable."

Drug dependent cousins Cynthia and Joe are spending Thanksgiving in Las Vegas.

That leaves my husband, myself, our daughter and my mother-in-law. My daughter won't even eat turkey, she thinks it is 'gross.'

Think I'll just buy one of those dinners in a box from the local supermarket. Too bad Jeffrey Dahmer and Ted Bundy are no longer with us. I'd invite them over, they'd probably feel right at home.

Part-time Work An Issue For The Millennium

By Michael Moses and Praveen Nayyar
Knight-Ridder/Tribune News Service

NEW YORK—Early in the next millennium, part-time work will likely be the norm in the United States rather than the exception. If properly planned, part-time employment can be a win-win proposition for both employers and employees.

About 20 percent of today's workers hold a part-time job, but trends will cause that share to increase for both white-collar and blue-collar employment. There are several reasons for the shift, including continued growth in the service component of our economy.

Meanwhile, demand patterns will remain highly individual and variable, the pressures of worldwide competition will increase and Americans will continue to demand individual lifestyle choices.

Lastly, government efforts to reduce unemployment around the world will encourage part-time work.

Understanding and adjusting to this phenomenon will be crucial in the first quarter of the upcoming century. Decisions on this issue could well mean the difference between a happy and unhappy populous.

The United States has moved and is continuing to move to a service economy. This trend almost certainly will not change.

A defining difference between service and manufacturing is the inability of a service organization to inventory the act of service.

If the demands at New York's George Washington Bridge or the San Francisco Bay Bridge were constant over the course of a day, there would be a need for only one deck. However, commuters cannot be inventoried like air conditioners. Second decks and additional toll-takers are needed to handle peak traffic.

Responding to peaks in a service business requires additional capacity in some form.

This capacity can be capital, such as extra lanes on a bridge, or human, such as adding early morning sorters at United Parcel Service (one of the issues in the recent strike).

Peaks can also be seasonal. Tax preparation, crop harvesting and holiday travel are obvious examples.

Store-front tax offices like those run by H&R Block utilize part-time, free-lance accountants. Migrant workers historically have satisfied farm requirements.

Companies providing holiday travel try to level demand by price mechanisms but, unfortunately this is a far from perfect solution. Going to grandma's for Thanksgiving is close to immutable.

Hiring someone for a full day when only half a day of work is required raises costs substantially and contributes to inflation. It leads to noncompetitiveness not just domestically but in the new globalized markets.

Featherbedding played a major role in throttling the railroad system in this country. In a global marketplace, it will prove equally fatal to an organization.

Computer hardware and software companies handle the majority of their customer questions between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. But glitches, as many of us know from personal experience, have little respect for the hours designated even by titans such as Microsoft and IBM.

The alternative to part-time domestic employment is to hire full-time employees at substantially lower wages in nations an appropriate number of time zones away.

This explains why some computer companies have more brogues at the end of technical support phone lines than can be heard in an Irish pub on St. Patrick's Day.

Companies employing offshore help for off-peak demand may soon transfer their prime-time work load as well, resulting in a loss of high-tech employment in the United States.

Part-time work will increase as Americans choose nay, demand individual lifestyle choices.

Involuntary part-time workers account for no more than 3 to 5 percent of the work force. The majority of part-time workers limit their hours by choice. Children, crafts, hobbies, second jobs and so forth have a siren call for many.

The United States is not the only country where part-time work has increased. European Union countries have seen a sharp rise. About 38 percent of the workers in Holland and 24 percent in the United Kingdom are employed part time.

The Economist magazine noted recently that unemployment rates in the U.K. and Holland are 5 percent to 6 percent, half the Common Market average. The magazine urged European governments to scrap obstructions to part-time work as counterproductive.

A growth in part-time work seems unavoidable. We should try to level demand as much as possible, but it is more important to change attitudes.

Why not allow individuals to choose the month they want to pay their taxes? Stagger school years? Other tasks can be altered to level demand, but such changes will probably be at the margin because service cannot be warehoused.

We should not assume that holding a part-time job or two part-time jobs is negative. Governments and unions should not make the cost of two part-time workers more than one full-time worker.

And employers should not hire part-time workers because they are cheap but because it is the efficient way to get a job done.

Wages and benefits must be compatible to full-time levels.

Multiple part-time employees give an organization a larger pool of trained individuals to draw upon at peaks and in emergencies. They provide a reservoir of replacement talent for openings in the full-time work force.

This worker pool should be considered a strategic asset and might even be compensated when not being called upon. The compensation would reward upgrading of skills and availability.

Part-time work may be the norm as soon as 2020. It has the potential to make a significant contribution to the good life for all.

Individuals may be able to tailor their work, family obligations and leisure. Companies can restrain prices and create more opportunities.

Michael Moses and Praveen Nayyar are chairman and vice chairman, respectively, of the Operations Management Area for the Stern School of Business at New York University. Their views are not necessarily those of Bridge News.

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Massachusetts' 'Witch Trial' Of British Au Pair Might Help Ban Junk Science From Courtrooms

By Anna Vondrak
Knight-Ridder/Tribune News Service

When the American people get a chance to see the real impact of "junk science" in the courtroom as it did in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' latter-day "witch trial" of British au pair Louise Woodward, they're positively appalled.

Polls show the vast majority of Americans who watched this sad spectacle on television understood the overwhelming scientific evidence and thus rejected the prosecution's charge that Woodward killed 8-month-old Matthew Eappen by shaking him and then slamming him on hard surface.

Defense testimony by numerous medical experts repeatedly pointed out it was impossible for such an attack to take place without injuries to the neck and vertebrae, and there was no evidence of any neck or vertebrae damage to Matthew Eappen.

The trial accentuated the dilemma unsophisticated juries face when they have to weigh conflicting opinion from two sets of seemingly well-credentialed experts. All too often, they simply don't have the background to differentiate between those who interpret hard data according to accepted scientific procedures and those who, for whatever reason, advance pet theories that have no basis in science.

In the case of Louise Woodward, the jury likely was influenced by an inordinate amount of feverish pre-trial publicity and the preemptory challenges by prosecutors interested in obtaining the kind of lowest-common denominator jury least able to understand fairly complex scientific reasoning.

How dumbed-down was the Woodward jury? Consider this comment by an au pair juror explaining why the jury chose to throw out the scientific evidence in reaching its conclusion:

"How could we have faced the Eappens, if there had been a verdict of acquittal?" the juror asked rhetorically.

To his credit, Judge Hiller Zobel, in a 16-page opinion reducing the second-degree murder conviction to involuntary manslaughter in the "interests of justice," noted the jury "apparently spurned, as not worthy of belief, professional opinions emanating from a corps of highly qualified, authoritative experts."

Overly zealous prosecutors with a desire to build name-recognition for future political forays aren't the only lawyers who use "junk science" to abuse our judicial system, of course.

A small handful of plaintiffs' lawyers, such as Houston's notorious John O'Quinn indicted in South Carolina for ambulance-chasing the loved ones of air-crash victims

frequently use so-called referral doctors in their quest to extract millions of dollars from silicone-gel breast implant manufacturers.

The plaintiffs' lawyers have hired physicians to try to establish a link between silicone implants and a wide-range of some 80 autoimmune diseases, which cause the body's normal protective devices to turn against themselves. Among the best known: rheumatoid arthritis, lupus scleroderma and fibromyalgia.

In many cases, the so-called "referral" doctors' entire practice consisted of women with breast implants sent to them by plaintiffs' attorneys organizing lawsuits against the now-bankrupt Dow Corning Co.

Their testimony has grown increasingly suspect, however, as more than 20 recent studies by such respected institutions as Harvard, the Mayo Clinic, Johns Hopkins and the University of Michigan have shown no link between silicone gel implants and autoimmune diseases.

Fortunately, something is being done to correct courtroom situations that allow raw emotions to hold sway over dispassionate reason.

Last December, Federal Judge Robert Jones heeded the recommendations of a blue-ribbon science panel and disallowed the "expert testimony" of unqualified witnesses in a number of breast implant cases in Portland, Ore.

And in Birmingham, Ala., federal Judge Samuel Pointer is considering recommendations to have independent science panels advise on the credentialing of expert witnesses on all silicone gel breast implant cases.

But more can and should be done. Congress should consider requiring such science panels as part of the omnibus product liability legislation it is considering.

The silicone breast implant controversy is a good example of why judges should insist that scientific fact trump the voodoo of junk science in their courtrooms.

While the silicone implant lawsuits have forced Dow Corning into bankruptcy, the real losers are millions of Americans who rely on silicone medical devices to prolong and enhance their lives.

The product liability threats carefully cultivated by the O'Quinns of the plaintiffs' bar have caused suppliers of raw silicone and manufacturers of such silicone medical devices as brain shunts, heart valves, hip implants and artificial skin to curtail production of existing products and the development of new ones.

The chilling effect is evident in this grim statistic: At the start of this decade, there were more than 8,000 useful and, in many cases, vital medical devices that relied on silicone. Now that number has shriveled to less than 2,000.

It is hoped the views of tort reform legislators in Congress and reflective judges such as Pointer and Jones will begin to prevail.

Swift action on both the legislative and judicial fronts can ensure the United States remains the world leader in the kind of cutting-edge medical technology that has done so much to ameliorate human suffering over the past few decades.

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WEEKLY HOROSCOPES

By Linda C. Black
Tribune Media Service

The sun is in Sagittarius now, so the holiday season has begun. Sagittarius is ruled by Jupiter, the planet that brings good luck and bountiful feasts. It's also the planet of gifts. Parties should be plentiful on Monday and Tuesday, with the moon in sociable Libra. On Wednesday and Thursday, it'll be easier to focus attention on one subject. Do homework then. The sun and moon are both in Sagittarius this weekend, which could lead to excessive frivolity. Don't get into trouble from having too much fun.

Aries (March 21-April 19). Do what your partner suggests on Monday and Tuesday. He or she has a better idea of what you're up against, especially if you're traveling. You could run into financial difficulties Wednesday and Thursday. If you share expenses, the feast is affordable. Don't spend much on Friday and you'll get further over the weekend. The temptation to become a vagabond may be overwhelming then. Give in to it.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Do paperwork Monday and Tuesday. Finish up a report that's coming due. Wednesday and Thursday are best for making minor decisions with your true love. You'll have more information to base your decisions on by Friday, so you might as well wait on a big one. If it's a major purchase you have in mind, this weekend is your best bet. And if you shop a little farther away than usual, you can find a deal you never would have expected.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). Your mind is working especially well on Monday and Tuesday. Find time to jot down a couple of short stories and a term paper or two. Your creative reverie comes to a screeching halt Wednesday afternoon. Take care of practical matters after then. You'll be working all the way through Friday, although part of this assignment will be a lot of fun. Make up for lost time with your sweetheart in private over the weekend.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). Stay home in bed on Monday and Tuesday, resting. If you can't do that, spend as much time there as possible. Wednesday and Thursday are better for romance. Your feast on Thursday evening could lead to a lifelong commitment. Set goals on Friday. It's important that you know where you're going before you get too busy to think about it. You'll have lots of work over the weekend. Keep heading toward your intended destination.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Confer with an attractive tutor Monday and Tuesday. Study a subject you find almost too complex. Have the party at your place Wednesday and Thursday. Your house is still full of people on Friday. The weekend is better for romance and travel. You and your sweetheart will be involved in some sort of sports activity, most likely. Whatever it is, you're having a great time. Make sure your life fits that picture.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Money's coming on Monday and Tuesday, if you play your cards right. Those are also your best times to sell stuff. From Wednesday through Friday, you'll find it easier than usual to learn. That's saying quite a bit. Since you'll be with family, find out what the old folks have to teach you. The weekend is good for playing with relatives. It looks like you're surrounded by loved ones for most of this week. Not too shabby!

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're especially charming on Monday and Tuesday. You'll make a fabulous impression. On Wednesday, you'll start getting concerned about practical matters. Modify your plans to stretch your money on Thursday. Your partner has a surprise for you on Friday, which could last all the way through the weekend. You'll be learning a new game, and you'll be good at it.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Finish old business Monday and Tuesday, especially a report that's overdue. You'll be more confident Wednesday and Thursday. You can manage the day so that everything turns out perfectly. Stretch limited funds even further. Over the weekend, you'll find more reasons to go shopping. This could cause debt, if you're not careful. Find a way to pay it off before you incur it. That's not as good as having cash, but it's close.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Monday and Tuesday aren't bad. You're even more popular than usual. On Wednesday, you'll notice a few obligations creeping in. Don't avoid them. Everybody wants you on Thursday. It'll be hard to keep the calories down. Don't feel like you personally need to take care of all the leftovers on Friday, even if you're tempted. You could go without eating this weekend. You won't need any food by then.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It's not fair that you should have to work Monday and Tuesday. But, as you well know, life's not fair. Your friends come to your rescue Wednesday, and drag you off to a life of fun-filled adventure. There's also a feast scheduled for Thursday, of course. The activities go clear through Friday. By the weekend, you may be exhausted. Hide out in a secret place with only one other person over the weekend.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Travel should go well on Monday and Tuesday, with an exotic foreigner. It might be somebody you met in a foreign language class. You could run into an old, familiar authority figure Wednesday evening. Let that one dominate your life through Thursday and Friday. It's easier than putting up a fuss. Get together with friends over the weekend. You'll be astonished at your wit and wisdom. You'll be the life of the party.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). Take care of financial paperwork Monday and Tuesday. Get that handled now and you'll be thankful later. Hit the road Wednesday and Thursday, to get where you want to be by that evening. More travel is in store on Friday. It'll be fun. Go along with an older person's agenda this weekend. That should be a lot of fun, too, even though there may be a few surprises. Just sit back and watch the show.

If You're Having a Birthday This Week
... Born Nov. 24: Friends teach you what you need to know. Pay attention. Nov. 25: You're even more popular than usual. Do something good. Nov. 26: Accomplish great things with a team. Make an impact on your community. Nov. 27: This year is about friends and completion, which leads to new beginnings. Nov. 28: Learn to work within the system and your success is assured. Relax. It may be fun. Nov. 29: You have powers beyond your wildest imagination. Develop them. Nov. 30: You can achieve great things, or waste a fabulous opportunity. The choice is yours.

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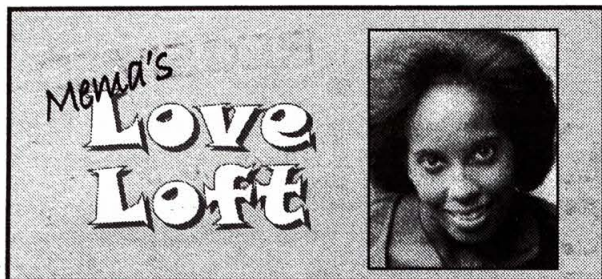
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The holiday season is upon us. Whoopee!

I don't want to go home for Thanksgiving. "Home" is less than 15 miles away, but I try not to go there very often. I'm convinced that I'm insane because my family is insane and the less time I spend with them, the more sane I'll become. OK; maybe it won't work that way, but they're really starting to get on my nerves.

Every time I go to a family gathering, there's a million questions about who I'm seeing, what his race is and what he does. Those questions don't really bother me, I'm happy to answer them or make up stories to make whatever guy I'm seeing sound like he's a better catch than he is. The family's usually happy after that.

The pressure of feeling like I have to show up with a date—at home of all places—bothers me. Where is it written, that as your children emerge from college they should be looking for someone to "settle down" with. This is all I've been hearing for the past year and a half. "Mem, you know you really need to find a nice guy," she'll say to me about every other month, except around the holidays when she gets to see me a little more often. Then she makes it her mission to find a "good" black man for me to settle down with. The truth is, I pick better losers than she does.

But this Thanksgiving I don't even have a loser to make up stories about or to buffer me from the onslaught of mommy-fix-ups.

I don't know why my family feels like I have to be "with" someone to be happy. I'm already happy. In their eyes, though, I can't possibly be happy because I'm not part of a couple.

I guess it's because there are no single people in my family. All moms

have dads, all aunts have uncles and so on, everybody's got someone.

And, of course, my siblings are no help. My older sister is pregnant, so it's assumed that there's a guy around somewhere. Both of my younger brothers will be around—one with his wife and the other with his very serious girlfriend.

My younger sister is too young for a serious boyfriend, let alone a husband, so she won't feel this pressure for at least another five years. Only to add to my agony, she'll sit at Thanksgiving dinner, bragging about how she can't decide which guy to go to prom with. It's only six months away. God only knows where she'd be in this process if she hadn't started in her sophomore year.

My sister will ramble on about her prospective dates until some nosey female relative (probably my grandma) turns her attention to me to ask "So Mem, who are you seeing?"

Unless I develop a relationship in the next three days, I'll have to answer "No one," and look happy about it. Then they'll all go on and on about all the losers I've ever dated like I'm not even sitting at the table.

I'll have to explain to them how much better off I am being alone. This holiday season I won't be missing a boyfriend who's 600 miles away or getting over a break up. I spent last Thanksgiving crying, having recently been dumped (like, the day before), driving through the tears from house to house (yes, I come from a broken home, so I have to eat Thanksgiving dinner twice). Toni Braxton was my only friend that day, she and I sang "How Could an Angel Break My Heart" over and over again, from Hyde Park to River Forest to Orland Park and back home.

The truth is that I'd like to be part of a couple, but I don't want to be pressured into it by anyone. I think I should walk in and say, "I have no plans to get pregnant, married or serious about anybody, anytime soon. No, I'm not a lesbian and I don't know right now what race my next boyfriend will be, but I'm hoping just as much as you are that he'll be a good-looking, gainfully-employed black man. I'm only 23-years-old, I haven't finished college yet, so please don't compare my single life to the coupled-lives of my brothers and sisters."

With my luck, I'll end up making that speech all day, all weekend and then again at Christmas. Maybe by Christmas I'll be seeing someone. And maybe Chicago will see 75 degrees and lots-o-sun Christmas Day.



THE CHICAGO MIDWEST CHAPTER of THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF TELEVISION ARTS AND SCIENCES

SECOND ANNUAL CAREER DAY

DECEMBER 6, 1997

At Hokin Hall

COLUMBIA COLLEGE

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**THIS IS YOUR BIG CHANCE TO LEARN HOW TO
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College students will have an unprecedented opportunity to learn from experts and leading Chicago television professionals about job availability, requirements, how to get a job, and what qualifications and background are required.

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with special expertise in free-lance work
Rick Felty, Director of Creative Services, WGN-TV
Eliot Ephraim, Leading Talent Agent
Ed Morris, Chairman, Television Department, Columbia College
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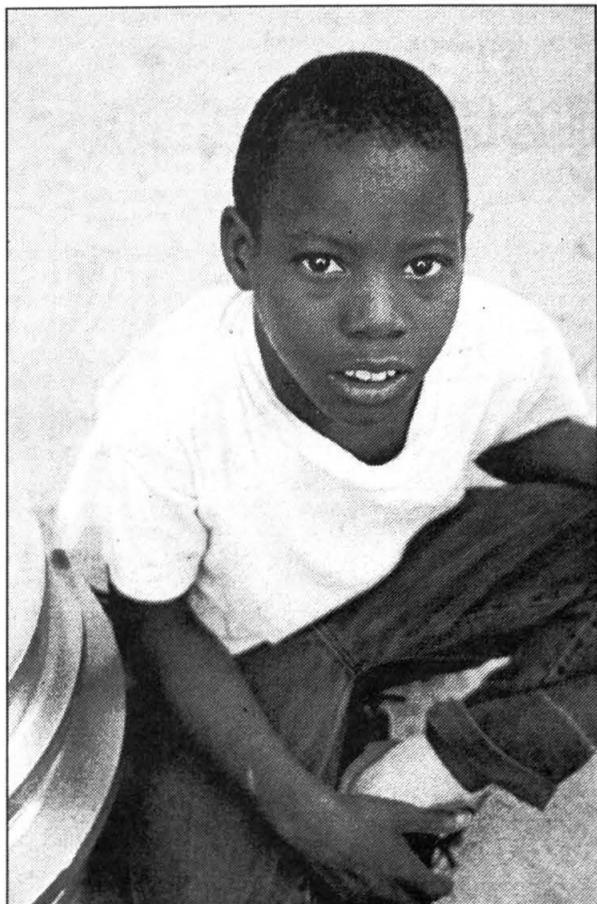
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SPORTS

The Sundays come to town with 'Static & Silence'



The SUNDAYS
static & silence

By Ericka Sanchez
Correspondent

The Sundays are coming! The Sundays are coming! Yep, the Sundays are coming to town on Nov. 25, at the Vic Theater. For those who don't know who the Sundays are, their sound is similar to that of the Cocteau Twins and The Smiths. The English band developed an indie-rock following in the U.S. with two prior albums, "Reading Writing & Arithmetic" (1990), and "Blind" (1992). They are touring in support of their new release, "Static & Silence."

One of the Sundays more familiar songs that many may have heard and not realized, is a cover of the Rolling Stones "Wild Horses" that was featured in a 1994 beer commercial.

The Sundays were known for very sad and depressing songs on their previous albums. However, "Static &



Silence," with its cheery song "Summertime," is more upbeat and less trying; the songs don't just keep going on and make one feel like fast forwarding them.

For those who appreciate good music and a band as true as their songs, I suggest you go see the Sundays, or at least pick up a copy of any of their albums. It'll be worth it.

Columbia hosts trip to Costa Rica

By Sheryl Tirol
Staff Writer

Volcanoes, rain forests, rivers and oceans will all be part of the ecological experience, students will participate in a trip to Costa Rica. The trip is being hosted by the Continuing Education 2 department of the college.

The tour, to be guided by Roseanna Mueller of the liberal education department, will let students journey through lush jungles, crystal waterfalls, blue ocean waters and mystifying volcanoes.

Mueller's studies and world travels have taken her to Costa Rica before. She's participated in the National Endowment for Humanities, focusing on Latin and Native American cultures in art, religion and literature. Her experience will guide students knowledgeably through this exotic and captivating country.

This exciting trip will include an array of beautiful historic landmarks throughout the coun-

try with incredibly unique and multi-cultural distinctions. The wildlife alone will capture anyone's attention.

The cost of the trip will be \$2,150 per person, double occupancy and \$299 for a single occupancy supplement. A deposit of \$300 is required with a reservation application.

The trip will include: round trip air from Chicago to San Jose, ten night accommodations, 22 meals, orientation briefing the day of arrival, welcome dinner on Day two and a farewell dinner on Day 10.

A guided excursion includes the following: a tour through the National Museum, Lankaster Gardens, Rainforest Aerial Tram, Poas Volcano National Park, Arenal Volcano National Park, river boat tour to Cano Negro, El Tabacon Hot Springs, Monteverde slide show, Monteverde Reserve, Butterfly Gardens, Carara Biological Reserve and Manuel Antonio National Park.

Follet Scholars Open Galaxy Gallery

By Amy Pugh
Staff Writer

"They're a movin' on up—movin' on up—to the south-west side—to a deluxe art gallery in the sky!"

Move over George and Wheezy, here come Erin Blythe and Megan Stielstra, two Columbia College graduate students bound for greatness. Both Follet scholars, these women are talented, motivated, and bright. Currently, these shining stars are combining their talents at the Galaxy Gallery, 100 S. Ashland, Chicago's largest privately owned gallery.

Blythe, 22, is the director of Galaxy. Originally from Texas, she did her undergraduate studies at the School of the Art Institute. Blythe is working on her MFA at Columbia in the interdisciplinary arts program with an emphasis on book and paper. Stielstra, also 22, is assisting Blythe with the gallery's writing exhibits. A Michigan native, she is working towards a master's in fiction writing. Stielstra attended Boston University and spent two years in Italy prior to finishing her under grad at Columbia.

The two have known each other less than a year, meeting not at Columbia, but at a restaurant where Stielstra was working. Blythe was there with the owner of Galaxy Gallery, Liska Blodgett. Upon overhearing the women discuss how they could "incorporate interactive artistic mediums into the gallery," Stielstra spoke up and Blythe hired her on the spot. The rest is history.

The mission statement of the Galaxy Gallery is to "incorporate all forms of art in the galaxy." Said Blythe, "As a new graduate I have a good understanding of what artists need, and with my business brain I know what buyers want."

The gallery is roughly 5000 square feet and has the capacity for artists to utilize anything from fashion racks to multi-media installation rooms.

Both Blythe and Stielstra speak vehemently when they say, "we accept everything!" They are not looking for anything specific as far as a theme for the gallery is concerned, but the women stress the importance of fresh, exciting, high-quality work.

"We cater to the emerging artist. [We] really want to be constant, but always in a state of flux as far as the work is concerned."

Stielstra, who will be heading up the writing displays at Galaxy Gallery, thinks this will be a "unique opportunity for writers." She adds, "this is the first time writing is being recognized as an art form." The goal for this aspect of Galaxy Gallery is that writers "have themselves recognized as artists." The gallery will house three to four writers' work on a 24x20 foot wall. The work (as with the rest of the gallery) will change every six weeks.

In addition to the displays, there will be monthly

readings entitled "Galaxy 9." (They will be held at Galaxy Gallery, every ninth of the month, at nine o'clock.) Stielstra plans on sending invitations to Chicago publishing houses and editors of literary magazines. "We want to get the writers' work out there." Since Galaxy is a co-op gallery, artists will have to pay a fee for displaying their work. This fee, however, is not applicable for those who have their writing on display.

The women are not limiting the work they will accept to the Columbia community, but since they are both housed here, they are actively seeking other students' art.

"We believe in the work that comes out of Columbia and would like to give it the attention it deserves."

Any students interested in submitting their work should contact Erin Blythe or Megan Stielstra at Galaxy Gallery: (312)-226-3900.

"We believe in the work that comes out of Columbia and would like to give it the attention it deserves."

—Erin Blythe and Megan Stielstra

Visit us online at:
www5.interaccess.com/chronicle

Get it early!

It's time for early registration

for the *Spring* 1998 Semester

*Early registration for the spring 1998
semester
will be held from Monday, December 1
to Friday, December 12.*

Just 2 weeks, not 4, so get with it!

Well, you can always wait until February and wait
in line with everyone else.

Dates for regular registration:

Continuing students: Wednesday, February 4 thru 7

New / transfer students: Monday, February 9 thru 11

Open Registration: Thursday February 12 thru 14

Program Revision: Wednesday February 18 thru 21

AEMMP Records offers students valuable, hands-on experience

By Eva Boyer
Staff Writer

It's that time of year when AEMMP Record Company, a student-managed, non-profit project, puts the word out to talented Chicago area musicians to send master quality demos their way. One lucky artists or group will be chosen and signed with AEMMP.

AEMMP Records was established 15 years ago by Irwin Steinberg, former chairman of the board at Polygram Records and Charles Suber, former publisher of Down Beat magazine. Both are faculty members at Columbia. The company was created to give students a hands-on opportunity

to see what it takes to run a successful record label. It's main goal is to market and promote musicians with the hope of attracting a major label's attention. Students involved in the music business concentration can take part in this three semester training that includes developing a marketing plan, designing art work, manufacturing, distributing and promoting the chosen artist or group's album in the Chicago area. The music business faculty lend their full and support and guidance to the students.

According to Michelle Collopy, senior and publicity director of AEMMP Records, 40 to 50 demos have piled

in so far.

"They keep coming in," Collopy said. And if last year is any indication as to the response they'll get, they can expect over 100 demos in all. The majority tend to pour in during the last two weeks before the deadline.

Once the deadline has passed, AEMMP will go through the selection process. According to Debra Hale, faculty advisor for AEMMP, there are no strict guidelines,

but there are some general guidelines the company will follow. The most important one is identifying commercially unique music.

"Truly successful music has a certain something that is distinctive," Hale said. "It is just a feeling that people have."

The students are asked to put their personal tastes aside and make a business decision based on whether the record buying public will want to buy this product.

Gina V Driskell, graduate student and president of AEMMP the project is designed to take them through the record producing process.

"It's the best learning experience offered in the management department," Driskell said. "We are learning by doing which will translate into helping us in the music industry."

She's looking forward to the spring semester when AEMMP will head into its second phase of the project. Attention will be focused on manufacturing the CD and

developing and completing marketing and merchandising plans to introduce the CD to the industry and retail sales.

Michelle Collopy will be preparing and implementing a publicity plan to obtain media exposure for the product and the company. "Being in charge of publicity will give me a lot of experience," said Michelle. "And overseeing the project from beginning to end will help a lot. The whole process is very interesting."

Driskell hopes to achieve a sense of accomplishment from producing a quality product for industry standards that will sell.

"It is the best learning experience offered in the management department," Driskell said. "We are learning by doing which translates into helping us succeed in the music industry."

The students aren't the only ones achieving a sense of accomplishment. Debra Hale said two of AEMMP Record's acts have been signed to record labels as a result of student's efforts. In 1987 AEMMP secured a multi year deal for the group ATM with Omni Records which was distributed by a major label. In 1990 AEMMP Records helped to negotiate a five year multi record contract between Bad Examples and a major distribution label CNR Records.

Interested? Send demo and bio to: AEMMP Records, Columbia College, 600 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60605. The deadline for submissions is November 30, 1997. For more information call (312)663-1600 ext. 7677.

"We are learning by doing which translates into helping us succeed in the music industry."

—Gina V Driskell

Television department goes prime time

By Glen Raj
Staff Writer

8.55a.m., 600 South Michigan. Inside, 200 students are waiting for one of the 5 elevators to come down to the 1st floor. All eyes are at the numbers on the elevator and your peripheral vision is on the guy next to you. You have a feeling that he is waiting to tackle you down so that he can get in the elevator. What do you do? Relax, lean against the wall, warm yourself up and be entertained by Columbia's own cable access.

Right now, the Television Department offers four shows for Columbia's students, made by Columbia's students. They are 600 South, Music Alive, Hungry Hearts and CCEN.

It's not exactly Fox television but on the other hand, it doesn't attempt to be. What it is, however, is an effort to come out with the best work that they possibly can and it shows.

First there is 600 South, this is Columbia's version of the 9 p.m. news. It's content of news includes everything from issues that concern both the students and the community. The show covers about 8-10 topics in a half an hour period.

The show, which takes a total of 6 classes to complete accomplishes a show that is hard edge yet entertaining in its content. "My hopes for the show it will offer an interesting perspective of what's going on in Chicago," Steve Corman (title), Eric M. Venable, assistant librarian and former Columbia student, is a fan of the T.V. Department's efforts to make Columbia, a school of excellence. "Shows like these really what makes Columbia a great place to go to. It's a great boost of moral to both Columbia students and the faculty."

Columbia College Electronic Newsletter or CCEN for short is probably the department's most popular show. This is more of a news magazine than it is about news reporting. The show offers students information about the different activities and functions that exists in Columbia. The show consist of short interviews with various faculty and students. CCEN offers an important tool to update your data on the on goings of

Columbia. Co-executive producer, Aerie Walton, hopes the show will introduce students to the many different aspects of Columbia that they have not seen yet.

"It used to be a medium for students and staff but I feel that we also make it very entertaining," She said. Walton attributes the success of the show to it's creative control. "It is interesting to see the many directions the show has taken because of the in and out coming of students year by year."

Shown nationwide on cable access, is Columbia's own soap opera, Hungry Hearts. Consisting of about 25 actor(ess) and 8 writers, the show's producer, Steve Hurley describes the show as being dramatic with a twist of humor. According to Hurley, a lot of effort goes into making this drama work, and entertaining for students. "I think Columbia students should check the show out because it shows the many talents of Columbia." Hurley also mentions that because the format of the show is like any other soap opera, anyone who is a fan of soaps will enjoy Hungry Hearts.

For anyone who is a fan of music or is in a band (and who in Columbia isn't?). There is Music Alive, a show about local bands. Everything from interviews from local bands to live music is offered in this show. Rachel Segnari, executive producer for the show, hopes to redefine the show to appeal to more people.

"Initially we use to have a lot of garage bands playing in the show but this year we are aiming for a more diverse forms of music, everything from salsa to reggae."

Even with the new format, Segnari feels a lot of student are missing out on a great venue. "We get a good reception from our viewers about the shows but I think a lot of people really don't know just how many good bands play for the show," Segnari said.

So if you're bored and just hanging out in Columbia. You have already read the school newspaper, The Columbia Chronicle, cover to cover, look up towards the wall, you might find a show or two that might actually entertain you.

*** ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS ***

IMMUNIZATION DAYS ON CAMPUS

Any student who is still not in compliance for **MEASLES, MUMPS, RUBELLA, TETANUS/DIPHThERIA**, and has **PAID THE FINE**, now has the chance to receive **FREE INOCULATIONS** during the specified times and days below:

TUESDAY DEC 9, 1997

2:00 P.M. TO 6:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY DEC 10, 1997

10:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.

THURSDAY DEC 11, 1997

10:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.

624 SO. MICHIGAN, 11th FL., FACULTY LOUNGE

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY; ID REQUIRED

PLEASE NOTE: Students who are still out of compliance by , April 17,1998 of the Spring 98 semester will have an additional \$50.00 fine applied to their tuition account.

DIMENSION & THE CHRONICLE
FILMS

OFFER YOU THE CHANCE TO SCREAM AGAIN!

Win Free **"SCREAM 2"** movie passes and prizes!

Someone has taken their love of *sequels* one step too far.



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THE NEW THRILLER FROM WES CRAVEN

"The scariest scream I had at Columbia College was when I

Name: _____ Major: _____

To enter: Fill in the blanks and return this ad to the Chronicle office 623 S. Wabash-Rm. 205 Before 5:00 pm, Tuesday, November 25.

Contest rules: 10 winners selected from all entries returned by Tuesday, November 25th will receive a pass (admit 2) to an advance showing of **"SCREAM 2"** on Monday, December 8, 7:30 pm at McClurg Court. 3 Grand Prize winners will also receive a **"SCREAM 2"** prize package including a soundtrack, t-shirt and hat. The names and answers of the winners will appear in the Chronicle, December 1-5th. It is the winner's responsibility to pick up their prize at the Chronicle office before the screening date (I.D. required for redemption). Judges decisions are final. Employees of participating partners are ineligible.

"SCREAM 2" OPENS EVERYWHERE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12!

Murder in the Outback

Seductress minx and her out-of-control lover make 'Kiss or Kill' worth seeing

By Steve Corman
Guest Film Critic

It was considered the height of the bizarre when moviemaker Russ Meyer crafted his legendary "Faster Pussycat, Kill! Kill!" in 1962, a tale of sex and torture in the California desert.

Now comes "Kiss or Kill," a tense drama set primarily in the sun-baked Australian outback, involving a seductress minx, her out-of-control lover and murder.

Nikki (Frances O'Connor) has been a very troubled girl and young woman ever since she saw her mother killed in a horrifying manner.

Now she's part of a scam that lures businessmen from cocktail lounges to their hotel rooms.

Once they appear ready to "do the deed" she drugs them. Her boyfriend Al (Matt Day, the nerdy boyfriend in "Muriel's Wedding") then joins in and they proceed to rob the victim.

This time it all goes awry. The victim dies and the couple discovers he's carrying an incriminating video of a famous football star named Zipper Doyle (Barry Langrishe) in bed with a young boy.

Zipper obviously becomes undone when he learns his friend is dead and that the mystery couple has the video. Within minutes the chase across the outback is under way.

It features our wayward couple bumping along in a beat-up car, then humping at every opportune time, while two police detectives (cleverly played by Chris Haywood and Andrew Gilbertz), Zipper, and an aborigine named Possum Harry chase them in separate cars.

Along the way the three people are mysteriously murdered, and our fine couple accuses one another of the killings.

You're not quite sure who's done what to whom and what's going to happen next. Yet as the film twists and turns progresses, it's not hard to develop compassion for Nikki and Al.

That's partly thanks to the clever dialogue from director-writer Bill Bennett, who worked nearly a decade on the script for this film.

The violent climax brings some degree of redemption, yet leaves unanswered

questions.

All in all, it's an interesting film, not anything you have to "rush to see." But it's worth a look-see, perhaps at a cheap-price showing, or later as a rental.

Overall, I give it a "B."

(Steve is the Director of the Broadcast Journalism Department and an avid film-goer).



Nikki (Frances O'Connor), Al (Matt Day) and Adler Jones (Barry Otto) in a scene from "Kiss or Kill," a new film directed by Bill Bennett

Siskel's Flick Picks

By Gene Siskel

(RATINGS: The movies listed below are rated according to the following key: 4 stars - excellent; 3 stars - good; 2 stars - fair; 1 star - poor.)

Our FLICK OF THE WEEK is "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil," director Clint Eastwood's beautifully realized treatment of the best-selling book about high crimes and misdemeanors in Savannah, Ga., society. Following the success of his film of "The Bridges of Madison County," Eastwood — who doesn't appear in this picture — marks himself as a director with a sure literary touch, relaxed and generous in his storytelling, which is surprising for someone who comes out of the Western action tradition.

And here's another compliment I'm surprised to deliver, because off-hand I can't think of another film that deserves it. What I like about "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil" is that if you eliminated the centerpiece of the story — a murder trial involving a wealthy wheeler-dealer accused of killing his male lover — the picture still works. It's as simple as this: At the end of the film is a shot of a group of the film's characters, and I thought to myself as I saw them all that it had been a pleasure to spend time with each and every one.

Also noteworthy is the lead performance by Kevin Spacey as a slick, monied effete who lives in a lavish home that covers a city block, and is as kinky as he is charming. Spacey couldn't be hotter right now with his Oscar for "The Usual Suspects" and his similarly compelling performances in "Seven" and the currently in release "L.A. Confidential." His success is fascinating, because he doesn't have distinctive good looks; rather, his attitude of intense cynicism is his ticket to stardom. And I haven't found him repeating himself in cynical roles.

John Cusack co-stars as a writer assigned to do a magazine sketch on the high-society Christmas party hosted by Spacey's character each year. Before long, he's calling his literary agent in New York and begging to write a book about the crime story. And what he tells his agent is precisely what we are experiencing in this ensemble character study. "This place is fantastic," says Cusack's character.

"It's like 'Gone With the Wind' on methamphetamine... they walk imaginary pets... and they're all heavily armed and drunk. New York is boring."

But "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil" isn't. I'm sure there will be debates about an ultimate meaning to the

story. I think the film argues that there is a greater spiritual force in this world than you might suspect. **R. 3-1/2 stars.**

ANASTASIA. A pretty animated feature that works because it's lead character is charming, even though she gets faint support from the rest of the cast. With dialog spoken by Meg Ryan, and her musical voice performed by Liz Callaway, the story of the lost Russian princess works for the most simple of reasons: she's pretty and charming and we want her to be happy and recover her birthright. On the other hand, the script couldn't do a worse job of informing youngsters about what life was like for the working and peasant classes during the reign of the Czar. There's some inane talk about what a great time it was for parties in St. Petersburg during the first decade of the 20th century. I'm sure there were great parties during slavery times, too. **G. 3 stars.**

BEAN. The marvelous English physical comedian Rowan Atkinson displays considerable talent in this silly piece about a klutz in an art gallery. Bean is an all-thumbs museum guard who's so annoying that his bosses leap to send him away on a mission to a new American museum that's unveiling a prize acquisition, Whistler's "Portrait of a Mother." Bean is misrepresented to the museum as an art expert, and, of course, he trashes the painting. It's all very funny stuff. **PG-13. 3 stars.**

BOOGIE NIGHTS. A beautifully made survey of '70s excess, filtered through the trashy world of the burgeoning porno film industry in Southern California. We meet a young male star, a crestfallen mother of a starlet, and a savvy veteran director who dreams of making art. The early rave reviews accorded this film suggest a significance that I, however, did not encounter. What does linger are the performances, particularly the lead work of Burt Reynolds, as well as Mark Wahlberg, the rap-singer-turned-actor who couldn't be better as the ingenuitous stud. **R. 3-1/2 stars.**

THE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE. An outrageous New York law firm drama with big performances by Al Pacino as a would-be king of the hill and Keanu Reeves, an underrated talent I believe, as a smart Southern lawyer hired ostensibly to be Pacino's protegee. The film is as entertaining for it's Tom Wolfe-like depictions of rich, successful New Yorkers as for any of its legal machinations. Most entertaining. **R. 3-1/2 stars.**

FAIRY TALE: A TRUE STORY. This children's story is really aimed at a more adult audience, telling the fanciful account of an incident in 1917 England where a couple of little girls claimed to have seen pixies in a stream near a rela-

tive's home. Photographs are taken and published, and some of the leading lights of the day, including Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and visiting American illusionist Harry Houdini, become involved in the ensuing investigation. The film argues that we need illusions as much as reality, but that notion is obviously pitched at an older audience. Younger children, in my opinion, will not understand this film. **PG. 3 stars.**

FAST, CHEAP & OUT OF CONTROL. Errol Morris' weird investigation of men obsessed with controlling animals — everything from a fixated legendary lion-tamer to an in-home model of a exotic mammal's habitat. If there is a point to the material, it may be as simple as this: Man doesn't realize just how silly he can be in trying to find order in life. **PG. 3-1/2 stars.**

GATTACA. This is a particularly brainy and thoughtful science-fiction picture, and what a rarity that is. "Gattaca" is set in a frightening future to be sure — genetic engineering of "perfect" babies has resulted in a culture that punishes imperfection — but that premise is more than a launching pad for action sequences. It's the very subject of the film, leading us to issues we as a society undoubtedly will encounter someday soon. "Gattaca" is also great to look at, funny and unpredictable. The story is complicated. Basically, a young computer whiz (Ethan Hawke) dreams of exploring space but is prevented because he was a natural birth with flaws. So he rents the genetic identity of a "perfect" young man, who was disabled in an accident, hoping to qualify for a space mission. The problem is, he must fool the security system at the outer space-oriented Gattaca Corp. There he meets a beautiful co-worker (Uma Thurman) and obviously makes a connection. **PG-13. 3-1/2 stars.**

THE ICE STORM. Nothing less than one of the year's best pictures, a portrait of wealthy Connecticut suburbanites in the 1970s whose lives have no emotional or spiritual rudder. And so they play sex games and can't relate to their spouses or children. Aimlessness rules their days. Kevin Kline leads an excellent ensemble cast. **R. 4 stars.**

I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER. A dreadful mad slasher film that works neither as a thriller nor as a comic commentary on the genre. The villain in this piece is a fisherman in a slicker, rain hat, and a gaffing hook. That's laughable but not funny. **R. 1 star.**

THE JACKAL. A needless, pointless remake of a superb thriller, Fred Zinnemann's 1973 handbook on a world-class murderer for hire, "The Day of the

Jackal." I don't see anything distinctive about this film, save for its killer's customized weapon of choice, a monster modified machine gun that can blow holes in targets almost as big as the ones in the screenplay. The story has assistant FBI director Sidney Poitier using IRA operative Richard Gere to psych out, and help take out, acclaimed international killer Bruce Willis, who has been hired by the Mafia to eliminate a major American public figure. That's a big-name cast, with actors who previously have displayed a strong social conscience in their roles. Not this time; it's anything for a buck. "The Jackal" is tawdry material when you find out the identity of the target. **R. 1 star.**

KISS THE GIRLS. Another pointless serial killer movie that's particularly disappointing because it wastes the considerable talent of two major actors, Ashley Judd and Morgan Freeman. He plays a Washington, D.C., homicide detective and she is a medical intern who team up to track the serial killer who has kidnapped Freeman's niece and almost took Judd's character hostage herself. Pictures like this are similar to the standard, teenage, mad-slasher flick in that they connect violence with sex and offer rape fantasies. **R. 2 stars.**

MAD CITY. A disappointing film, in which heavy-duty stars John Travolta and Dustin Hoffman perform in an utterly unoriginal satire of tabloid media and stunt TV news. This is old material that was better handled more than 20 years ago in such excellent films as "Network" and "Dog Day Afternoon." Travolta plays a museum worker who's being let go. He flies off the handle in response to being trifled with and ends up unintentionally wounding a fellow worker and friend, a guard. The police overreact because there are children in the museum at the time, and Travolta is branded as a hostage-taker and exploited by a TV reporter (Hoffman). Hoffman manipulates Travolta, battles colleagues jealous of his access to the story, and both he and Travolta dodge police bosses who continue to freak out. Travolta's characterization is uninspired; he plays little more than a sweet sack. Hoffman has all the details of TV reporting just right but that's hardly enough to recommend "Mad City." **PG-13. 2 stars.**

THE MAN WHO KNEW TOO LITTLE. A very bad Bill Murray comedy with a dubious premise that's poorly developed. Murray plays an American video store clerk who visits his brother in England and winds up being mistaken for a hit man after he stumbles into a participatory theater experience. **PG. 1 star.**

ALIEN RESURRECTION



Ripley (Sigourney Weaver) lies trapped inside the Alien Queen's lair in the latest Alien film "Alien Resurrection."

By Jerry LaBuy

Assistant Features Editor

Cloning is a mistake that will destroy us all. That is the main theme behind the fourth installment of the Alien series "Alien Resurrection."

The Alien film series started back in 1979 with the original "Alien" directed by the very talented Ridley Scott. This film rescued the sci-fi horror genre from its '50's "B" movie oblivion and contrasted other popular sci-fi soap opera films of the '70's such as "Star Wars" and "Close Encounters of the Third Kind." With its outstanding production values and script, "Alien" single handedly brought sci-fi horror films onto the "A" list. (It also sent this reviewer out of the room screaming when he saw it for the first time as an eight year-old and I still consider it one of the scariest films ever made.)

The series then continued through two other well made sequels before landing in 1997 with its latest installment. Although "Alien Resurrection" has strong production values and visuals, like its predecessors, the film as a whole seems to lack any new surprises or insight to keep a true fan interested.

If you thought there was no way to bring Lt. Ellen Ripley (Sigourney Weaver) back into the series after the third installment, you are wrong. Through a blood sample taken from the prison planet in the second sequel, military scientists from 200 years in the future have cloned Ripley and harvested the alien queen that she was impregnated with. The queen soon matures and spawns eggs for several poor hibernating spacefarers who have been brought in by a group of space renegades. Believing they have everything under control. The scientists are proven wrong when a particularly vicious self-sacrifice leads to the drone aliens escaping onto the ship.

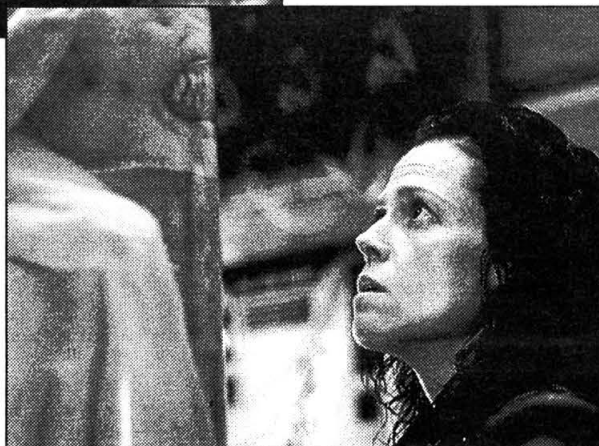
After one of the renegades, Call (Winona Ryder), tries to kill Ripley, the entire band is set-up as terrorists and must fight their way off of the ship. They soon find that they are not trying to escape from the ship's crew, for they have already been killed or abandoned ship. The renegades are being pursued only by the aliens as hosts for more of their kind.

It is during this escape through the ship, which has a very "Poseidon Adventure" quality to it, that the strongest scene and statement against cloning

appears. Ripley, who has been called number 8 by the scientists, stumbles across a lab that has the numbers 1-7 on it. Unable to turn away, she enters the lab to find a room full of unspeakable genetic horrors with each one resembling her in some way. As her eyes tear up she torches the lab and continues to escape from the ship with the renegades.

After the cloning lab scene the film loses its speed and I believe that scene would have worked better for the film if it had been placed towards the end rather than the middle. That way the strong emotions that are working for it could have carried over to the final scene which needed some serious help. For the last scene of probably the entire series, it is devoid of any strong feelings and seems ripped off from every other film in the series.

"Alien Resurrection" is the first American film from French Director Jean-



Ripley (Sigourney Weaver) confronts one of her own clones in the latest chapter of the Alien series "Alien Resurrection."



Ripley (Sigourney Weaver) stops Call's (Winona Ryder) assassination attempt in the new sci-fi horror film "Alien Resurrection."

pierre Jeunet ("City of Lost Children", "Delicatessen"). It is apparent from the first scenes that he does have a flair for the visual storytelling nature of this series, but not for compelling direction of actors. Most of the characters seem particularly one-sided, stereotyped and uninteresting, but that could also be attributed to screenwriter Joss Whedon ("Toy Story", "Speed"). The cinematography by Darius Khondji ("City of Lost Children", "Seven", "Evita") however is remarkable and among the best I've seen this year. He truly creates the

haunted house ambience that is needed with this type of film.

As the credits rolled at the end of this film, there was a strange silence from the audience. Most got up and left, not saying much and looking particularly disenchanted. By their pre-screening conversation, I found most were die-hard fans of the series who had hoped that this film would live up to its title and actually resurrect the Alien series to new heights. By their silence, I believe they only found the last nail in its coffin.



Talking Sports with Michael Johnson

By Michael Johnson
Guest Columnist

I know what you're thinking Columbia, Sara is gone. But don't worry, she will be back next week bitching more than ever about Chicago sports. This week you get to read my insight into the world of sports. For those of you who read my letter to Bears owner and President Mike McCaskey, I'm sorry to say there has been no reply. But he must be busy trying to figure out how to stop the bleeding of our beloved Chicago Bears.

And what about the Bad News Bears? Are they going to get a second win this season? Looking at the schedule, I can see them winning only one more game this season: Dec. 7 at Soldier Field against the Buffalo Bills. The Bills don't have a quarterback and they have just as many if not more problems than the Bears—if that is humanly possible.

The other night I was having dinner with my father. We get together every once in a while to have dinner and talk sports. He had an idea about how to improve the Bears coaching. He said, "McCaskey should hire Mike Singletary." My first reaction was that he'd had enough to drink for the night. But after listening to him, he started to make more and more sense. Boy, was I surprised! Parents make sense?

I know Singletary has said time and time again he isn't interested in coaching. But what if McCaskey makes him an offer he can't refuse? Part ownership? Share-holder? Big-time salary? By any means necessary, McCaskey gets it done and signed by "The Samurai."

Mike Singletary embodies what is a "Bear." He's tough, under-sized, slow, he can hit you like nobody's business, he's a winner and a great motivator. He proved that earlier in the season when he gave the team a pep-talk at training camp. Players listened to him—even jerks like Alonzo Spellman and Bryan Cox. If the fans are just a little patient with Samurai Mike, we may just be signing the "Super Bowl Shuffle" somewhere down the road.

In recent weeks much talk has come up about today's athletes. Are they over-paid? Are they legitimate role-models for our kids? Are all of them nothing but selfish jerks? I am here to tell you the majority are not.

I have had the pleasure of meeting two of Chicago's—if not all sports—most famous athletes. A couple years back, I met Michael Jordan and Walter Payton—two of the nicest gentlemen I have ever met. At the time, they weren't surrounded by fans, it was just me and a couple other people. I went up to each of them and asked them for an autograph and a picture. They were more than happy to do it.

I know you're saying they have to be nice and sign autographs and pose for pictures. It's good for their image. But how many times has Albert Belle done that? I have been very lucky to have met many famous athletes. Blackhawk great Bobby Hull, Stan Makita and Chris Chelios. Never ever a problem. Very nice people. But all of these guys are throw back athletes. It seems that today's players get a really bad rap. Believe it or not, there are more Chris Zorich's in the sports-world than there are Lawrence Phillips.

Quick question: Does the NBA have too much time on their hands? Fining players for wearing their shorts too long? What the hell is going on here? Is wearing your shorts below the knee posing some threat to the fans seated in the arena? Are gang bangers going to start shooting people in the stands because Rasheed Wallace of the Portland Trail-Blazers wears his shorts too long? Come on, NBA President David Stern. According to an article in the New York Times, you have 10 times as serious problems in the NBA. The article stated, according to sources, that 70 percent of the players in the NBA are either using drugs or abusing alcohol. So let's cut through the B.S. about fining players for wearing their shorts too long. Now, if Kevin Garnett is running down the court and he trips and falls because his shorts are too long, it's his own damn fault!

Finally, I recently found a letter sent to "Reader's Digest," by an unknown author who writes his sentiments about sports. I think it says how we all feel about sports:

"The thing I love about sports is the emotion it brings to a world where true passion is such a scarce commodity. In a society where personal, political and religious beliefs are muzzled for fear of offending, sports remains one of our last legitimate outlets. It allows us to scream and cheer and wear our bias on our sleeves like medals of honor earned in combat. Here we can state our case, argue the obvious and steadfastly defend indefensible positions without fear and remorse."

I think that speaks volumes about why we love sports. Sure, when you get down to brass tacks, sports is a business. But remember, it's grown men getting paid to play a game they love. We should all be so lucky.

Sara on
Sports

is taking a break,
but she shall
return



UIC Basketball preview

By Dan Zampillo
Correspondent

In an ideal world, people would learn from mistakes and try not to repeat them. UIC Flames Head Basketball Coach Jimmy Collins knows this is not an ideal world. Last year his Flames started a dismal 1-9 before finishing the season 15-14, two points away from the NCAA Tournament. He does not want to go through that kind of start again. "We suffered a real emotional loss against Illinois to start, and we went on the road and were never able to recover," said Collins in describing his team's start last year. Collins is optimistic that his team has learned from the past and will not suffer the same fate.

Collins sees a glaring difference in this year's team, as compared to last year's squad. "This year's team is working together toward a common goal" said Collins. Togetherness did not come easy for last year's team, who had trouble adjusting to his style of coaching. In addition, the friction between the players Collins brought in, compared to those remaining from ex-coach Bob Hallburg, led to a gaping hole in team unity. This year is a whole new ball game however, and with the leadership of three returning seniors Anthony Coomes, Mark Miller and Bryant Lowe, the Flames are geared for success.

"The team goes as the point guard goes" explained Collins, and point guard Anthony Coomes is the man they will look toward. Coomes averaged 10.2 points per game, and more importantly had an assists-to-turnover ratio of 3 to 1.

Mark Miller is what Collins calls the "star" of this Flames squad. Despite his problems adapting to Collins' style of coaching, Miller still averaged

15 points per contest and led the team in steals from his shooting guard position. Miller prefers to down play his status of star player, saying, "you can expect me to go out and work hard for 40 minutes, whatever else comes will come."

Power forward Bryant Lowe gives the Flames an inside presence Collins so greatly desires. Although he is only 6'5," Lowe lead the team in rebounds with eight per game and was able to score a complimentary 11 points per game.

Collins acknowledges that "those three need to be the leaders for us," something that UIC lacked greatly at times last year.

Collins stresses the importance of short term goals like playing smart every game, however, there is no secret about his long term goals for the season. "Our first goal is to be the best team in the city," said Collins, "then to branch out and be the best team in the state, and of course the conference."

With teams like the upstart Depaul Blue Demons in the city, the Fighting Illini in the state, and the Butler Bulldogs ready to defend their conference crown, the goals Collins has set will not be easy to obtain. The Flames have also lined up a difficult non-conference schedule, playing the likes of Michigan State, Marquette, Illinois and Illinois State. There is no question the goals Collins has set will be tested to the fullest this year.

The UIC Flames program has done things in Coach Collins tenure that some thought impossible. He brought his team to the brink of the NCAA tournament in March, he has recruited top high school prospects and has scheduled some of the top teams in college basketball today and. That is just the beginning. "We are looking to build a first class program," says Collins, and so far he is on his way to success.



Making the cut for the sports on the evening news

By Matt Kerlin
Correspondent

A typical sportscast on the ten o'clock news in Chicago will probably consist of a minute's worth of coverage on each the Bears, Bulls, and Hawks, with the remaining time going to national scores and highlights.

Some days the Bears will run first and other days the Bulls will run first. On Saturdays one might even see some college football first in the broadcast; some things won't be seen at all.

Who makes the decision as to what gets on the news and what gets cut?

At WMAQ-TV Channel 5 in Chicago, Sports Producer Jordan Mendal makes those decisions.

Mendal produces for the ten o'clock news sportscast. He said more goes into a three to four minute sportscast than one would think.

First, everyone involved in that particular sportscast, including sports anchor Jon Kelley, meets. Mendal said this is where they decide what is going to make the news.

"We find what is newsworthy for the day," Mendal said, "and then we look to see in general, what is the best stuff."

Mendal said most of the time Chicago sports has precedence over national sports, unless something big has happened somewhere else.

After deciding what stories will be on the news, Mendal said they start to look at video clips and soundbytes. If material from one game is better than material from another, it runs first.

"We find the best clips and soundbytes to try to

recapture the game. Anything that will give the audience the best insight into the game," Mendal said. "We use a lot of voice-overs to let the game speak for itself. The last thing we want to do is have the anchor constantly talking."

After putting together all the video clips and soundbytes, Mendal said they time what they have and add copy.

Reporting on sports in Chicago is somewhat of a luxury because there are five major teams to cover—no matter how bad some of them are—along with all the Division I colleges in the area. But what do they do on the off slow news day?

"We try to see what is out there and how we can do it better," Mendal said. "When there is a game, we can use highlights and interviews, but the Bears don't play every day and the Bulls don't play every day. On those in-between days, we see what we can do different than everyone else."

When a group of people is responsible for deciding what is going into the limited time slot sports has on the news, Mendal said some arguments are inevitable. He also said that without the arguments over how the sports is going to be done, they wouldn't be able to put out a good product.

Everyone has some kind of opinion on what we're doing," Mendal said, "and that is how the best stuff comes out."

Mendal said that if anyone has more pull in an argument, it is Jon Kelley, because, "it is his face that is going out there with our work."

"[But] when it comes down to it," Mendal said, "everyone, including Jon Kelley, knows that I have the final say. Someone has to take charge."

E-mail us your comments on our sports
page.

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